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Letter dated 1 November 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 1 November 2000 addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ümit **Pamir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 1 November 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the statement made by the Greek Cypriot representative, acting in his purported capacity as the "representative of Cyprus", during the general debate on disarmament in the First Committee on 12 October 2000, which contains false allegations and misrepresentations on the Cyprus question, and to bring to your attention the following:

The Greek Cypriot representative refers to "the continuing foreign occupation" whereas the only "occupation" in Cyprus is the 37-year-long illegal occupation of the seat of the "Government of the Republic of Cyprus" by the Greek Cypriot administration. The Turkish intervention of 1974 was necessitated in the face of the bloody *coup d'état* staged by Greece and its collaborators in Cyprus which aimed at forcibly annexing the island to Greece. Turkey had no choice but to intervene in accordance with her rights and obligations under the Treaty of Guarantee, in order to put an end to the armed onslaught against the Turkish Cypriot people by the Greek Cypriot-Greek forces. It will be recalled that the then Greek Cypriot leader Archbishop Makarios, in his address to the Security Council on 19 July 1974, confirmed that Greece had, indeed, invaded the island in 1974.

I would like to emphasize that the Turkish military presence in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, in pursuance of the Treaties of Guarantee and of Alliance, is a vital security requirement for the Turkish Cypriot people in view of the continuing hostile actions on the part of the Greek Cypriot administration, in collaboration with Greece, within the framework of the "Joint Military Doctrine".

In his above-mentioned statement, the Greek Cypriot representative also referred to the proposal made by the Greek Cypriot leader Glafcos Clerides for the "demilitarization" of the island. Paradoxically, this reference came at a time when the Greek Cypriot National Guard, together with the Greek army, navy and air force units, were preparing for military manoeuvres code-named "Nikiforos-Toxotis" held between 17 and 21 October 2000. Greek fighter aircraft taking part in these provocative manoeuvres bombed mock targets and landed at Paphos military airbase, constructed for the use of Greece. The unprecedented build-up of arms and armed forces in South Cyprus, including the introduction of heavy weaponry such as TOR-M1 and Exocet missiles in contravention of successive Security Council resolutions is a clear indication that the Greek Cypriot administration is insincere about seeking reconciliation between the two parties in Cyprus and is merely paying lip-service to "demilitarization".

At a time when the two parties are involved in the process of proximity talks, the hostile attitude of the Greek Cypriot administration comes as a serious affront to the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General to assist the two sides to prepare the ground for meaningful negotiations. The process can only be successful if the necessary atmosphere conducive to start building bridges of trust and cooperation between the two States can be created. The current stance of the Greek Cypriot administration which insists on clinging onto the usurped title of the "Government of Cyprus" shows that the Greek Cypriot side is not ready for a peaceful resolution based on sovereign equality of the two States in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aytuğ **Plümer**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus